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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE #4

(Management of Productive, Life-Sustaining Natural Resources Strengthened)

CFC backs energy, clean air campaign

THE Couples for Christ (CFC), through The Oikos Society, its Social Ministry for Environment, extended its support to the national campaign for cleaner air and sustainable energy during its National Leaders' Congress last January 14 at Clark Expo, Pampanga.

CFC, in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development's Energy and Clean Air Project (USAID-ECAP), and in cooperation with the DENR, conducted voluntary emission tests on participating vehicles in CFC's "Tobit's" caravan, a motorcade of CFC members coming from various provinces including those in Visayas and Mindanao. Free consultations on alternative fuels and vehicle maintenance, were also rendered during the emission testing.

Recognizing the challenges in the area of implementing sustainable air quality management activities, the CFC is making available every opportunity in its vast network, to promote partnerships and advocacy for cleaner air.

At its recently held congress in Clark Expo, it provided ECAP an opportunity to share materials and information on its advocacies and projects through a Clean Air and Sustainable Energy Exhibit Booth.

More than 200 CFC members visited the booth, answered trivia questions on clean air, and exchanged views and insights on how the vast CFC network can help sustain clean air and sustainable energy efforts.

Joining ECAP at the exhibit were two other USAID projects, namely Sustainable Energy Development Program (SEDP), and Alliance for Mindanao Off-Grid-Renewable Energy (AMORE). SEDP, which promotes the use of alternative clean fuels for transport such as biodiesel, also provided information materials on their programs.

In highlighting the value of CFC in this national campaign for cleaner air and sustainable energy, Renato Goco, ECAP chief of party said, "ECAP believes that the Couples For Christ's ministries such as OIKOS, Youth For Christ (YFC), and Kids For Christ (KFC) can be effective channels for motivating the community, particularly the youth, into action, as partners in the implementation of the Clean Air Act." CFC, according to Roland Nillas, CFC -- The Oikos Society executive director, welcomes the partnership which he hopes is "just the beginning of a sustained effort to be true 'workers' in the field of environment that needs concerted efforts."

(Source: Malaya Newspaper, 2/09/06, page B5)